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Grain Transportation Situation

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United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20250
May 19, 1986

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Conrail Strike. The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE) struck the Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) in support of the BMWE strike against the Guilford Transportation Company. The Guilford strike has been in effect since March 3, 1986. All major Conrail terminals were affected by this strike. Fearing a major rail shutdown in the east, President Reagan intervened in the Guilford strike and issued an executive order restoring pre-strike status and naming a 3-member emergency board to investigate the dispute concerning the BMWE strike with Guilford. Due to the President's actions the BMWE employees went back to work and Conrail has resumed normal operations. The 3-member emergency board has 30 days to reach a settlement.

New Tariff for Demurrage and Storage. Conrail has announced a new demurrage and storage rules tariff. Under the new tariff shippers and receivers will be subject to the following guidelines: two free days to load; three free days to unload; then two $20 days; no $30 days; the remaining days will be $60 per day; Saturday, Sunday, and holidays are no longer free days; time is based on calendar days; all average agreement days can be offset. The new tariff rules will go into effect August 1, 1986.

A Review of Hazardous Material Hauling. The Chicago & North Western Transportation Company (C&NW) has recently announced that they are reviewing if they should continue to haul certain hazardous materials. Speaking at last weeks USDA Tranportation Conference held in St. Louis, a C&NW official stated, "I currently have on my desk a recommendation from some of our departments to withdraw from the transportation of certain hazardous commodities, some of which are important to the agricultural community." The official declined to elaborate on what commodities would be involved or what recommendations will be made by the carrier.

Arguments to be Heard on the SF-SP Merger. The Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) has recommended certain issues that they think are important to be discussed at the May 21st oral arguments concerning the merger of the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. and the Santa Fe Railway. The ICC believes that each carrier should discuss how the terms in the merger would "ameliorate any anticompetitive problems." A decision pertaining to the merger is expected by the end of this summer.

River Situation. At Locks & Dam 26, during the previous 24 hours, 11 tows with 113 barges have passed upbound and 14 tows with 121 barges downbound. This morning there are no tows waiting upbound or downbound. At the Gulf on Thursday, 897 barges were waiting to unload grains, oilseeds, and other products. The total empty barges on hand were 1,205. At the Gulf, in the New Orleans/Baton Rouge area last Friday, 9 vessels were reported loading grain, while 10 waited. In the Columbia River Basin, also on Friday, 4 vessels were at berth being loaded while 4 waited.

DUE TO THE MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY (MAY 26, 1986) THE GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED. HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY.

A108.12:

UNITED STATES GRAIN STOCKS
(DOMESTIC UNITS)

DATE	ON FARMS	OFF FARMS 1/	TOTAL ALL POSITIONS	ON FARMS	OFF FARMS 1/	TOTAL ALL POSITIONS
	1985			1986		
	1,000 BUSHELS					
	CORN					
JAN 1	4,304,054	1,560,171	5,864,225	5,525,096	2,366,162	7,891,258
APR 1	2,833,806	1,131,736	3,965,542	3,979,886	1,965,386	5,945,272
JUN 1	2,007,823	827,701	2,835,524			
OCT 1	678,947	701,780	1,380,727			
	SORGHUM 2/					
JAN 1	228,780	496,283	725,063	327,473	663,062	990,535
APR 1	134,904	346,392	481,296			
JUN 1	89,076	271,700	360,776			
OCT 1	45,870	225,147	271,017			
	OATS 2/					
JAN 1	300,332	57,727	358,059	310,153	68,426	378,579
APR 1	211,676	44,676	256,352			
JUN 1	146,450	33,428	179,878			
OCT 1	416,007	94,986	510,993			
	BARLEY 2/					
JAN 1	307,300	129,623	436,923	365,131	168,449	533,580
APR 1	216,721	103,147	319,868			
JUN 1	163,361	84,033	247,394			
OCT 1	461,509	193,300	654,809			
	ALL WHEAT					
JAN 1	930,281	1,210,750	2,141,031	1,011,184	1,514,964	2,526,148
APR 1	713,437	953,694	1,667,131	799,408	1,324,282	2,123,690
JUN 1	582,077	843,163	1,425,240			
OCT 1	1,248,446	1,722,651	2,971,097			
	DURUM WHEAT 3/					
JAN 1	95,033	37,212	132,245	111,608	38,441	150,049
APR 1	81,819	33,007	114,826	89,192	46,590	135,782
JUN 1	69,225	30,581	99,806			
OCT 1	127,722	44,124	171,846			
	SOYBEANS					
JAN 1	766,335	655,724	1,422,059	927,395	837,884	1,765,279
APR 1	487,369	408,632	896,001	599,246	576,738	1,175,984
JUN 1	326,596	281,821	608,417			
SEP 1	143,221	172,836	316,057			

1/ INCLUDES STOCKS AT MILLS, ELEVATORS, WAREHOUSES, TERMINALS AND PROCESSORS.
2/ PER PROGRAM MODIFICATION: STOCKS ESTIMATES FOR BARLEY AND OATS WILL BE MADE AS OF JUNE 1 EACH YEAR; SORGHUM STOCKS ESTIMATES, EACH JUNE 1 AND SEPTEMBER 1.
3/ INCLUDED IN ALL WHEAT.

SOURCE: USDA-Agricultural Statistics Board
Grain Stocks, April 29, 1986

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GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

WEEK ENDED	1986	COMPARABLE WEEK 1985
RAIL CARLOADINGS		
Apr 19	17,902	20,176
Apr 26	17,001	18,732
May 3	17,593	17,967
May 10	15,478	16,134
Calendar Year to Date	402,337	428,635
BARGE LOADINGS (1,000 Bushels)		
Apr 20	N/A	34,273
Apr 27	N/A	29,516
May 4	N/A	27,908
May 11	N/A	23,742
Calendar Year to Date	293,910	627,250
INSPECTIONS FOR EXPORT (1,000 Bushels)		
Apr 17	41,825	78,588
Apr 24	35,222	81,035
May 1	45,166	66,362
May 8	36,507	65,854
Calendar Year to Date	1,122,529	1,459,767

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AVERAGE GRAIN PRICES ($ Per Bushel)

	1986			1985		
	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/
Apr 4	3.40	2.50	5.35	3.70	2.91	6.02
Apr 11	3.46	2.46	5.26	3.61	2.91	6.06
Apr 18	3.33	2.45	5.25	3.54	2.91	5.97
Apr 25	3.50	2.44	5.28	3.62	2.88	5.99
May 2	3.56	2.46	5.33	3.59	2.88	5.88

(Wheat-#1 HRW - ORD., Kansas City; Corn #2 Yellow, Chicago; SB-#1 Yellow, Chicago)

1/ Bought to arrive 15 days.
2/ Bought to arrive 30 days.

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MAJOR EXPORT SALES*
(1,000 Metric Tons)

WEEK ENDED		1986			1985		
		WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS	WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS
Apr	10	4,422	2,467	3,020	3,370	7,937	1,960
Apr	17	4,425	2,326	3,070	3,501	6,854	1,869
Apr	24	4,557	2,596	2,815	3,574	6,757	1,755
May	1	4,581	2,955	2,552	3,586	6,199	1,601
May	8	4,612	3,543	2,301	3,650	5,830	1,481

*Unshipped Balances-Current & Next Marketing Year

GULF COAST OCEAN GRAIN VESSELS

		IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS	IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS
Apr	18	27	40	33	25	50	69
Apr	25	32	30	39	24	46	71
May	2	31	30	31	25	46	55
May	9	30	34	39	19	49	61
May	16	19	41	37	17	42	59

BOX AND COVERED HOPPER CAR OWNERSHIP
(1,000 Cars)

		RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**	RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**
Jan	1	4.3	123.5	115.5	6.8	123.5	114.7
Feb	1	4.3	123.5	115.4	6.3	123.1	114.9
Mar	1	4.2	122.8	114.6	6.0	123.3	114.5
Apr	1	4.0	122.6	113.1	5.6	123.4	115.2
May	1	3.7	122.3	112.9	5.4	123.2	115.7

**Jumbo Covered Hoppers Only

OCEAN FREIGHT RATES*
(Dollars/Ton - Basis Vessel Size/Ton)

U.S. Loading Port	Destination	Estimated Freight Rates	Dates of Movement
Gulf	Japan	$14.00-$8.70(30M-52M)	May-Jun
Gulf	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$6.55-$6.25(50M-55M)	May-Jun
Pacific Northwest	Philippines	$13.05-$12.80(25M)	May-Jun
Great Lakes	Algeria	$25.00-$20.50(17M-18M)	May-Jul
Great Lakes	Japan	$21.15-$20.75(17M-25M) Top-Off $14.00-$13.75	May
Gulf	Taiwan	$18.25-$12.50(30M-33M)	May
Gulf	South Korea	$11.00(52M)	May

*These ocean fixtures are based on full ship charters.

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This report is prepared by Bill Dunton & Martha Bearer, Traffic Management Specialists, Domestic Division, Office of Transportation, 202/447-6793.